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COLORADO, AS A REFUGE FOR THE SICK.

BY REV. T. R. SLICER, D. D.

THE people of Colorado are divided into two great classes; those who seek nothing but gain, and those who seek nothing but health. Many of this latter class have taxed their feebleness to the utmost to reach Colorado, with the idea that they shall immediately recover. The impression seems to be general among invalids there that, after years spent under medical care elsewhere, their cure will be effected by the unaided climate as by magic. The idea seems to prevail that abundant employment and miraculous cure await all who can gather money and strength enough to enable them to reach Denver; whereas, the rule regarding both wealth and health is that the elements of success and recovery used anywhere are there used under (in some instances) more favorable conditions. Many persons are there, the beneficiaries of public charity, who have expended the little store of earnings saved before starting West, while they have waited for the miraculous cure which either never comes, or comes without miracle.

For fifteen years a strong current has been breaking against the base of the Rocky Mountains—a swift, full current of human beings. Fifteen years ago the first gold was washed out of the sands of Cherry Creek, in Denver, and now more than twenty thousand people have settled in this flourishing city. Besides this metropolitan center, several mining towns have sprung up with vigorous growth. Georgetown contains a population of about three thousand; Black Hawk, Central City, and Nevada, contain about eight thousand; Idaho has gathered a village around its soda springs; and Colorado Springs has become the Saratoga of the

far West. It will be observed that in two of the above instances names which formerly served to indicate an entire territory have been greedily absorbed by towns. So much for “great expectations.”

In Colorado almost any climate desired can be obtained in one section or another. The climate throughout the entire State is enchanting to any one well enough to enjoy it.

Denver, the chief hospital of this land of invalids, is situated at an elevation of nearly six thousand feet above sea-level, but is built upon the plain at the base of the mountain range, which, through the clear atmosphere, seems not an hour's walk distant, but is in reality fourteen miles away. Georgetown looks down from its perch of near ten thousand feet, whilst above it rise, like the sides of a basin, peaks of the snowy range to a height of three thousand feet. In southern Colorado the balmy air and equable temperature afford the advantages of Florida, without its dangers. Scarcely enough can be said in praise of the climate of Colorado, so far as its enjoyableness is concerned; but the endorsements of it addressed to the sick have been far too indiscriminate. It is not a “cure-all,” and the capitalist or his physician who affirms that it is, must take rank with the quack whose nostrum is declared a cure for all diseases, from dandruff in the hair to inflammation of the bowels. It is safe to suppose that the man whose tract of land cost \$1.25 per acre, and now sells for as much per front foot, is scarcely a disinterested guide to the invalid seeking a life-giving climate. But that the climate of Colorado is admirably adapted to some conditions of health is certain. Many persons who were benefited by the climate years ago, and have been living there in good health since, make a radical error in the sincere endorsement which they give the climate when communicating with consumptives. The particular which is dangerously

omitted is this, the means by which Colorado is now reached differ materially from those necessary even a half dozen years back; and the change is not an improvement in the cases under consideration. Several years ago the invalid came from the eastern sections as far as St. Louis, St. Joseph, or Kansas City, by rail, and there waited sometimes for weeks for the gathering of a party sufficient to cross in safety the six hundred miles of the plains stretching between Denver City and their point of departure. Then came the slow toiling of the ox-train across the desert, consuming six weeks at the least. The slow stages of travel, the life in the open air, the increasing appetite, the plain and wholesome fare, the perfectly dry atmosphere, the excitement of possible adventure, the very novelty of the situation—all contributed to the cure in which the Colorado climate was at last to have a share. By the time the patient reached the rare air of the more elevated plain, the lungs had *gradually adapted their work to the new conditions*, and there could be no relapse from sudden strain.

But regard for a moment the manner of reaching Denver now. A pair of nearly exhausted lungs are carried out of some swampy tract in New Jersey, and are landed in Chicago in forty-eight hours; in twenty-four hours more the man reaches Omaha or Kansas City, and in two nights and a day more he reaches Denver, and is carried out of the palace-car feeling as if every breath he draws comes up out of his very boots. This is little short of suicide. The lungs could do almost nothing on the Atlantic coast, and in six days are required to manage the rarified air of an elevation of nearly six thousand feet. Many a life could be saved by slow approach to Denver (by the old wagon trail), which is now "pumped out" by this sudden transportation by rail.

The climate of Denver, Greeley, Colorado Springs, and places like situated, is peculiarly adapted to some stages of pulmonary disease. The instances are many of life saved by a residence there. But much depends upon the peculiar condition of the patient. It would be perfectly safe to say to persons with incipient consumption or bronchitis: "If you go to Denver City, you will recover;" and it would be equally safe to assert that persons "far gone" with either disease would hasten their death.

It is sad to see how hopefully the early days of residence in Colorado are spent by those desperately sick with consumption. After the first shock, the life-forces rally to their work—the flush of the

cheek is deeper, the eyes are brighter, the limbs gain strength, and the sick person "walks out for the air," "almost well," whilst the air they so eagerly inhale but fans the fires so unnaturally kindled, and by which the vitality is soon consumed. After a week or two comes the relapse without recovery.

The most notable benefit from the climate is derived in cases of asthma. Long-continued tendency to that disease is often cured, but the persons so recovered must make their permanent home there. Persons have attempted to return after years of exemption from asthmatic trouble, and have hardly reached the Mississippi Valley before uneasy breathing begins, which increases steadily as they go eastward, and terminates in spasmodic asthma of a most alarming type. If, with the attack on them, they begin their return journey to Colorado, the suffering decreases, as it increased, until entire relief ensues on reaching Denver.

In some cases of asthma a cure is effected by a residence in "the cities of the plain," whilst others can go into the mountains with impunity. Southern Colorado, however, is the natural home of persons thus afflicted.

The effect of the climate upon the nervous system is most salutary. A hearty tone pervades the very air. In summer (although at midday the mercury is at 100° in some instances), the temperature of the night is low; a delightful cool breeze sweeps over the snow-tops of the mountains and comes down on the plains, and extra covering before morning is required for the bed. Each day that dawns, cool and bright, makes one forget the mid-day heat of its predecessor. Nowhere else has sleep such refreshing influence. Each evening, in the mountain-towns, a little wood fire is needed to dull the edge of the air; and but two or three hours of heat mark the day. It will be readily perceived what the effect of such a temperature would be as to nervous diseases. No healthy man there needs any better tonic to start the day than a full inhalation of the morning air.

The tonic effect upon the nervous system was illustrated in the following instance: A gentleman came to Denver, suffering from congestion of the optic nerves, unable to read more than two hours during the whole day, and in an exceedingly nervous condition from the idea of possible blindness. At first the bright, perfectly transparent atmosphere was painful; but by constant exercise in the open air, the whole nervous system began to improve; and during the summer, instead of the nervous

prostration and increased pain in the eyes usual at that season, there was a steady growth of strength and decrease of suffering. In one year a cure was effected, and all undue nervousness disappeared.

There is something about a residence in Colorado stimulating to the whole mental organism. The mass of the people are intellectually quick in an unusual degree. And this is more noticeable in the mountain districts; even the dull Cornish miner catches the sparkle of the quartz crystal as it flies from the point of his drill, and he becomes witty and given to discussion. Nowhere can more mental work be accomplished by the student, than in that bracing climate.

One serious drawback is found in the almost universal tendency to nasal catarrh, the dry atmosphere and the dust, which at certain seasons penetrates everywhere, produce upon the mucous lining of the nose a dry, scabby formation, which being removed, a few drops of blood follow. There is no copious discharge as in the catarrh of the Eastern coast, but an incessant tendency to bleeding of the nose, on cleansing the nostrils. This may have no vital bearing upon the health, but is a gross inconvenience.

Persons of a bilious temperament are in some measure liable to what is known in Colorado as "mountain fever," a low, exhausting fever, occasionally fatal. From the effects of this disease the most ready relief is found, by taking the convalescent from the mountains to the plains. A person recovering from such a fever was lifted from bed in Georgetown and put into a carriage, who on the second day reached Denver, a distance of fifty miles—a gradual descent all the way. The increase of strength was almost constantly perceptible; and vitality rose like the mercury of a thermometer. At the end of the journey the patient walked unassisted, whilst at its beginning it was necessary to carry her.

To all derangements of the heart's action, the climate of Colorado is the certain foe. Nothing could be more rash than to attempt a residence in Colorado with any functional derangement of the heart. Even such irregularity of this organ as can be endured in Denver becomes rapidly worse in the mountains.

Many persons afflicted with rheumatism find relief in Colorado; whilst persons entirely free from any symptoms of this disease before, find themselves frequently and violently attacked there. In these latter cases the action of the sun seems to

lend a hand as one of the producing agents. A person riding in a carriage with the sun shining steadily for two or three hours on one shoulder, though not conscious of inconvenience at the time, is very liable to an attack of rheumatism in that part on the next day. The same effect is observable in the case of persons unused to working in the sun; such exposure being followed by acute pain in the back and limbs. Rheumatism, acquired and increasing in a moist climate, is almost sure of relief after a few months in Denver. Here the Homœopathic remedies for this disease have been most efficient. The dry atmosphere is, of course, conducive to such recovery. In summer no rain falls, except at long intervals and in very slight showers. In winter, snow lies rarely longer than two days. The snow-storms spend themselves on the mountains, leaving the plains but the edge of the storm. The months of January and February are, for the most part, open weather. The exception to this is, perhaps, in the ratio of one severe winter to six mild ones. So confident of a mild winter are the stock-farmers that they make no provision for the cattle, but leave them to get their food on the plains as in summer; they sometimes suffer, but for the most part do well. The coldest weather does not seem so cold as a temperature ten degrees higher here. The cold has not that moist, penetrating character belonging to a New York winter. The snow that falls is dry; and the rainy week in the fall is a refreshing episode.

The mineral waters of Colorado are abundant. The victims of rheumatism are repairing, in increasing numbers each year, to the great hot-sulphur bath in the Middle Park, about one hundred miles from Denver. This remarkable bath is poured into a natural rock basin from a hot-sulphur spring, in which the water is about 115°. It is in the bath, 110°. The visitors who encamp each year around this beautiful spot on the Grand River, testify to the healing properties of this spring.

The springs at Idaho are soda, hot and cold. Those at Colorado Springs contain soda, iron, magnesia, etc.

When the value of the Colorado climate shall be fully known, there is no doubt but that riches of health will be found stored there more ample and precious than the mines of silver and gold.

A NEW medical college in Milwaukee is in contemplation. It will be the first institution of the kind in Wisconsin.

MERCURIUS DULCIS
IN
CHRONIC CATARRHAL INFLAMMATION
OF THE MIDDLE EAR.

BY HENRY C. HOUGHTON, M. D.

IN August, 1874, while reviewing Toynbee's conclusions concerning certain pathological conditions in the middle ear, my mind was impressed by the fact that the improved hearing was, in the author's mind, due to the administration of mercury, particularly the bichloride. Prof. Toynbee does not give the fractional results of the test by watch as now used by aurists, but reports the improvement for the voice particularly in "the disease which causes deafness in advancing years."

The results of massive doses led me to look to the action of small ones. Hahnemann's proving gives "deafness occasioned by a swelling which compresses the Eustachian tube." This afforded me little aid, for it may have been tonsillitis or pharyngitis, gland or mucous membrane. I used merc. dulc., and am gratified at the results. It *does* reduce swelling of the mucous membrane, so that the Eustachian tube becomes patent.

Since September 10, 1874, the remedy has been given in eighty-one cases of chronic catarrhal inflammation of the middle ear, seen at the Clinic of the New York Ophthalmic Hospital, and in twelve cases in office practice. The 1st, 2d, and 3d centesimal triturations were used, three grains once each day. In a few cases some soreness of the mucous membrane of the mouth was produced; in two a sensation as if the surface of the tongue had been burned; and in most cases the action upon the large intestine was noticeable. One patient, who disobeyed directions, provoked a sharp dysentery by the use of the first trituration. The relief of the pharyngeal catarrh is prompt, the permeability of the Eustachian tube becomes established, with a more or less rapid fading of the subjective symptoms arising from pressure upon the fluids of the internal ear. Cases in which lesion has existed for years show less gain for the watch than for the voice. More recent cases respond to both tests. Patients seen at public clinics do not usually attend faithfully enough to give satisfaction. Twenty-two out of eighty-one attended from three weeks to four months, and gave good results, considering the time they were under treatment.

CASE NO. 1.—Elizabeth A—, aged forty-five, a typical case of this class. Gradual loss of hearing with no apparent cause; noises have become very

annoying, and she comes for relief from this more than for restoration of hearing; M. E. dry; M. T. tense, concave inward, not specially thick, but not normally mobile; irritation in the pharynx, but she does not complain of excessive secretion; pharynx granular; E. T. not dilatable: hears watch R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{6}$, L. $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6}$; attended three months; had merc. dulc. I-II; the noise faded till the head was free of all confused tones, and the watch was heard R. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{6}$.

CASE 9.—Heard R. $\frac{9}{6}$, L. $\frac{9}{6}$; at the end of two months R. $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{1}{6}$. Improved for the voice.

CASE 10.—In six weeks gained from R. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{6}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6}$.

CASE 12.—In two weeks gained from R. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{6}$.

CASE 13.—In four weeks gained from R. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{6}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$.

CASE 21.—In three weeks gained from R. $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{7}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$ = $\frac{1}{6}$.

CASE 61.—An interesting one. In four months gained from R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$ to R. $\frac{4}{6}$ = $\frac{1}{6}$, L. $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$. The gain for the voice finds no expression by these figures for the watch. In this case hearing for the voice was nearly normal on the right side.

In three of the twelve cases treated at the office, there was no improvement. In four of the remainder the galvanic current was used, in addition to the remedy. In five the remedy alone was used, and these were very promptly relieved. In one case in which the current was used, and the hearing for the watch rose from $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{6}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{8}{6}$ in three months, the remedy was specially serviceable in removing the obstruction of the Eustachian tube.

In the five cases treated by the remedy alone:—

CASE No. 1.—Gained in two months from R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$.

CASE No. 2.—Gained in twenty days from R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{0}{6}$.

CASE No. 3.—Gained in two months from R. $\frac{4}{6}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$.

CASE No. 4.—Gained in thirteen days from R. $\frac{4}{6}$, L. $\frac{1}{6}$ to R. $\frac{3}{6}$, L. $\frac{3}{6}$.

CASE No. 5.—With nearly normal hearing; was relieved entirely of a noise like the roar of the surf; also, of a stuffed sensation from the throat to the ear, by one prescription of the first centesimal trituration.

My object in presenting this matter is this, simply that we may obtain testimony from those who are constantly treating the form of disease called sclerosis or proliferous inflammation

of the middle ear. I am satisfied by six months use of the *mercurius dulcis* that its action is more marked in this disease than the other mercurials. If longer trial shall add valuable evidence it shall be given.

March 16, 1875.

APHASIA.

BY EGBERT GUERNSEY, M. D.

ONE of the most curious affections of the human brain is that in which the mind remains clear, but the power of expressing the thoughts in an intelligible manner has vanished. Words may be uttered, showing that the organs of speech are unimpaired, but they are either entirely different from what is intended, or the bringing together of letters, syllables, and words, in such inextricable confusion, that they resemble no known language in the world. The power of co-ordination of ideas, and shaping them into words, for a time is either partially or entirely lost. This condition of the brain to a greater or less extent may last for years; but where the blow is sudden, and the patient finds his mind without any apparent physical disease closed from communication with the outer world, shut within itself, and unable to express its wants save by signs and words, which are almost if not quite unintelligible, the mental agony is something fearful to witness.

Quite recently I was summoned to see an old friend and patient, suffering, as I was informed, from apoplexy. On entering his room I found him seated in his bed, surrounded by his family, who were vainly endeavoring to understand his wishes. His face wore a look of the most intense despair I had ever seen in a human being. He seized my hand in both of his, and with intense eagerness commenced uttering a most unintelligible jargon. It seemed to be a mixture of Welsh, Dutch, and Slavic. He saw from my look I did not understand him; and throwing himself back on his pillow, fairly writhed in agony, and wringing his trembling hands, uttered, in a tone I shall never forget, "*lost! lost! lost!*" These were his only intelligible words during the whole attack. This was evidently not apoplexy, not insanity; but that strange, almost incomprehensible trouble, *aphasia*. I took his hand in mine and said, "Be still; do not attempt to speak, for I cannot understand you, but nod or shake your head to my questions." But he was too much excited, and cried out—"Rob padoy Sphancter?" repeating what was evidently a question over and

over again. Seizing a pencil and paper he commenced writing, but the words were unintelligible. Forcing him to be quiet, I said "You will not die, but in a few days will be all right. This is not apoplexy, but a little disturbance of the brain, from which you will recover." He followed every word with the utmost eagerness, and when I said, "it is not apoplexy," he clutched my hand and said, "*baum padoy Sphancter?*" His father was in the front room, partially paralyzed from an attack of apoplexy, and he wanted to ask me if he was like his father.

There was in this case no paralysis of any of the muscles of the body or of the organs of speech, no unusual heat about the head, and nothing but a nervous quickness of the pulse. Several years ago he had dislocated the thigh, and more recently had broken the femur of the opposite side within the capsular ligament, and it had not united; so that most of his exercise was taken in the carriage.

His bowels for years had been very much constipated, seldom acting more than once a week, and then only after help. I found there had been no action for a week, and prescribed a brisk cathartic, injections having long failed to produce any effect. Thinking there might be some slight congestion about some portion of the brain, I gave also *aconite*. Six hours after, I saw him again, the cathartic had acted slightly, he was more calm, could speak a few words intelligibly, and was evidently improving. The same remedy was continued, with the addition of causticum; and at his suggestion a large dose of castor oil was given. The next morning the attack had almost entirely subsided, the only trace of the old trouble being seen in the misplacement of a few words. One week after he had another but very much lighter and shorter attack, since which, now two months, there has been no return. The only premonitory symptom in either attack, and this was so slight as not to create special notice, was a pain in the left side of the head. His water, on being subjected to chemical and microscopic tests, was found to be full of the phosphates; but nothing was seen which would indicate organic disease of any of the urinary organs.

This is a very good illustration of complete *aphasia* without any important premonitory symptoms, without, as I think, any severe change in the organic structure of the brain, with the intellect unimpaired, and with entire recovery. We meet with this trouble, however, in a great variety of forms. In some it is transitory, in others persistent, lasting for years or a life-time. In some,

intelligence is more or less affected; in others, it is unimpaired. In some, there is simply a misplacement of certain words or letters. Where two languages are known, one, and often the most familiar may be utterly forgotten, while the other may be spoken with comparative ease, or now and then an intelligible word picked out from it. It is a curious fact that even in some of the worst cases, from the same cause, perhaps, that a paralyzed foot will jump when tickled, when the patient is most excited an oath or an ejaculation of despair will seem to spring out from the unintelligible jargon like a shot. In some cases, while there is an inability to pronounce words, they can still read aloud printed matter or manuscript, while in others they can neither speak, write, nor read correctly. In some cases there is unilateral paralysis or spasms and hemiplegia, more or less marked; in others no perceptible sign, so far as the muscles are concerned, of cerebral disorganization.

Aphasia, in its various forms, may be included under the *ataxic* and the *amnesic*. In the *ataxic* form the intelligence does not seem to be impaired, the ideas and memory of words being intact, but the loss of speech is from an inability to co-ordinate the muscles concerned in articulate language. In this form, while he is not able to speak intelligibly, he can still write correctly. In the *amnesic* form the idea and memory of language is lost, and this is usually accompanied with *agraphia*, or inability to write. This form is illustrated by the case quoted above. A few other cases from my own observation, and quoted from different authors, will illustrate some of the varieties and peculiarities of this curious disease.

Trousseau mentions a case of a Professor of the Medical Faculty in Paris who had been confined in bed for a week with a sprain, who read most of the time, and tired his brain. One day, while reading a chapter of "Lamarine Conversations," he all at once found he could not understand the sentences before him. He found on moving the tongue and body there was no apoplexy, and rang the bell, but when the servant came he could not speak to him, and on calling for writing materials he found he was equally incapable of communicating his thoughts by writing, as by speech. In a few hours words gradually came back to him, and at the end of twenty-four the trouble had entirely disappeared. Cuvier relates the case of Broussonnet, the celebrated Professor of Botany in Montpellier, who, while suffer-

ing from domestic sorrow, had a slight attack of apoplexy during the night from which he quickly recovered, but he found, notwithstanding his senses and muscular powers were all perfect, he could neither speak nor write correctly, nouns, substantives and proper names, in either French or Latin, although otherwise these languages were at his command. After a time this state of things improved. Dr. Winslow mentions the case of a lady of religious feeling, who, always on repeating the Lord's Prayer was forced by an irresistible feeling to say "Our Father who art in Hell," instead of "Our Father who art in Heaven." Trousseau gives the case of a lady who had never been paralyzed, and who in other respects was quite rational, addressing her visitors as they entered the room, with a most amiable tone and manner, pointing to a chair, "Pig, animal, stupid fool," meaning, pray be seated. Cases illustrating various forms of *aphasia* and arising from various causes, I have no doubt will suggest themselves to the mind of every physician who has seen much of practice. It is not so easy, however, as many of our physiologists would have us believe, to localize in the brain the faculty of language, or to get at, in all cases, the real cause of *aphasia*. Still, the careful researches of such men as Gall, Dr. Brocca, M. Dax, Hughlings Jackson, Brown-Séquard, Hammond and others, have done much to cast light on the subject and point the way to a correct diagnosis. The most recent pathological investigations show that the organ of language is situated in both hemispheres, and in that part nourished by the middle cerebral artery. Brocca and M. Dax localize it more precisely, at or near the third frontal convolution and the island of Reil in the left anterior lobe of the cerebrum, and mainly in the part nourished by the middle cerebral artery, but they say in some few instances the organ seems located in the corresponding part on the right side.

The fact that in the great majority of cases, *aphasia* is associated with unilateral palsy, indicating disease of the left cerebral hemisphere and that in these cases there is very apt to be found disease of the third left frontal convolution or in the left anterior lobe near to it, is strong presumptive evidence that the left side of the brain is more intimately connected with the faculty of speech than the right. And yet we often find cases of *aphasia*, evidently the result of reflex action, or sudden nervous shock, or from other causes, such as blood poisoning when the whole brain is apparently quite

healthy; and also when the left lobe of the brain is perfectly healthy, the disease existing in some other part.

In making up our diagnosis we should ever bear in mind that *aphasia* is not in itself a disease, but mainly a symptom of disease, and hence should be extremely careful in studying not only the present condition but the previous history of the patient. The question naturally suggests itself to our mind, and upon its solution depends not only our treatment but our prognosis, is this trouble the result of some sudden nervous shock, of septicæmia, of reflex action, or is there some organic lesion, the result of tumors, softening, embolism, and other causes, producing a change of structure. In the one case judicious treatment will probably be successful, in the other attended only by palliative results if even any are obtained.

Aphasia may be congenital as in the deaf and dumb, and it is one of the frequent symptoms of idiocy. It may occur in consequence of direct injury to the brain. The records of military surgery are rich in instances of traumatic aphasia, the result of wounds of the head. Recovery sometimes is speedy and attends the removal of a piece of bone or the closing up and healing of the wound, and sometimes when the injury is permanent the *aphasia* ends only with death.

Aphasia has frequently been observed as the result of organic lesions of various kinds affecting the cerebral substance, especially the anterior lobe. It may occur as a remote symptom of endo-pericarditis when fibrinous vegetations detached from the cardiac valves have been carried into the cerebral arteries (usually the middle cerebral) and have caused embolism, thus establishing a relationship between cerebral disease, obliteration of the middle cerebral artery, softening of the brain from loss of nutrition, and aphasia. The peculiar arrangement of the arteries renders embolism more frequent in the vicinity of the island of Reil than in any other locality.

Aphasia has been observed as a symptom of disease of the spinal cord. Velpeau mentions a case of left hemiplegia with aphasia, where after death, in the center of the right column of the spinal cord and in the middle of the cervical portion, a cavity three inches long and two or three lines in diameter was found full of soft matter like pus; in the left column of the same portion of the cord was a similar cavity but less in extent. The brain was healthy.

Hammond says, in cases in which hemiplegia is

marked, the aphasia is of the ataxic form; while in cases in which there is no hemiplegia it is amnesic. The gray matter of the lobes, he says, presides over the *idea* of language and hence over the memory of words. When it is only involved there is no hemiplegia, and there is no difficulty of articulation. The trouble is as regards the memory of words. The corpus striatum contains the fibers which come from the anterior column of the spinal cord, and is besides connected with the hemisphere. A lesion, therefore, of this ganglion or other part of the motor tract causes paralysis of motion on the opposite side of the body. A lesion followed by hemiplegia and ataxic aphasia indicates the motor tract as the seat.

If amnesic aphasia is also present, the hemisphere is likewise involved.

Aphasia may arise as a merely nervous symptom. Almost every physician has seen cases where under the influence of anger, joy, or violent excitement of any kind, the powers of articulate language are for a time suspended; and in neuralgia and hysteria we often find our patients unable to speak. Many cases are recorded where aphasia has been the result of worms or of severe constipation of the bowels, and has been speedily relieved by a vermifuge or a cathartic. The sudden application of heat or of cold to the head or body has produced aphasia. We see instances of this in sunstroke and in the sudden chilling of the body from severe cold. Cases are by no means rare of its being produced by septicæmia, as in the poisoning of the blood from scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus and typhoid fevers, and the bite of serpents.

As aphasia arises from so many causes, more than ordinary care should be used in ascertaining whether it really arises from organic lesion or is merely a symptom of troubles which can easily be relieved.

We should carefully examine the urine both chemically and microscopically. The presence of Bright's disease would at once give a clue to the trouble, and the preponderance of the phosphates would lead us to suspect nervous prostration and, perhaps, softening.

The sphygmograph is of service in giving us a clue to the condition of the arteries of the brain, and thus enables us to form an opinion whether the *aphasia* is due to structural or merely functional disease. Dr. Anstie mentions a case in which he noticed, on applying the sphygmograph, a decrease of arterial tone and a difference between the two sides.

Thermometric observations may be of use; the

result of Prof. Brocca's observations showing an elevation of temperature above the left ear in those who are the subjects of cerebral softening. He says in some cases the increase is sometimes two and three degrees centigrade. M. Brocca thinks when the aphasia is the result of progressive atrophy of the *third frontal convolution*, there is probably a decrease instead of a rise in the temperature. In applying the thermometer he takes two instruments, covers them with little bags of wadding precisely alike, and applies them on each side of the head, fixing them by a circular band. At the expiration of ten minutes he reads off and records the result.

The treatment of aphasia depends, of course, upon the cause, but here our homœopathic law and our careful researches as to the action of drugs, come to our aid with peculiar force. We know that some drugs have the power of suspending speech. Sauvages says that the robbers near Montpellier were in the habit of drugging wine with the seeds of the *datura stramonium*, those who drank it not being able to speak for a day or two. He also observed a somewhat similar effect from the berries of the *atropa belladonna* and the roots of *hyosciamus niger*. Dr. Blage, of Torquay, mentions a case of poisoning by *stramonium*, in which the patient on recovering his speech, which he at first entirely lost, misnamed every thing he wanted, although he was evidently quite unaware that he did so. Several days elapsed ere he could mention his wants without calling something by a wrong name. It will be observed that the *aphasia* which was at first *ataxic*, before passing off assumed the *amnesic* form.

Dr. Topham noticed the occurrence of temporary dumbness in a boy who had eaten the roots of *œnanthe crocata*. The student familiar with the action of *cannabis indica*, *opium*, *lachesis*, and the poison of other serpents, recognizes in their drug action the symptoms of aphasia, and carefully turns to a closer study of his *materia medica*, not only of the drugs enumerated above, but of others, for weapons to combat the disease.

When loss of speech occurs in hysterical and highly excitable persons, or is an accompaniment of the chronic epileptic conditions and may depend on a spasmodic state of the cerebral arteries, diffusible stimulants may be required, in addition to the carefully selected drug. There are certain cases in which the aphasia seems to depend on a kind of cerebral catalepsy, in which electricity is of great value. Dr. Todd says elec-

tricity is injurious when there is an early tendency to muscular rigidity, showing an exalted polarity of the nervous tissue, and probably an irritating lesion of the brain; thus, when the aphasia is an accompaniment of muscular paralysis, the result of electricity on the limbs affected may serve to guide us in our diagnosis by showing whether the lesion is irritative or depressing. In concluding this article, which has grown to a greater length than was at first expected, the physician is strongly urged to be exceedingly careful about pronouncing the case the result of organic lesion of the brain, without first thoroughly investigating it on every side. It is the great fault of pathologists to overlook the effects produced by nervous shocks and the chemical changes of the blood, which often paralyze the powers of speech or strike with death, and yet leave no impression upon the tissues, perceptible to the sight, even when assisted by the power of the microscope.

Therapeutic Action of Cod Liver Oil.—A French physician reports in *Comptes Rendus*, as the result of nearly one hundred observations, that it is in rickety patients, as previously shown by various writers, that cod liver oil has its most positive and curative action, but that it cures neither scrofula nor consumption; in these, as in all other diseases, in which it has been tried, the oil acting as a restorative and reconstituent, is therefore useful in the treatment of all such conditions of the system as exhibit a general cachexia, without being addressed to any particular malady. It seems also to be a fact, verified by numerous instances, that the increase of weight always ceases in individuals attacked with consumption whenever, by the use of the cod liver oil, they have attained their normal weight. The oil should be administered with the food, instead of in the intervals between meals.

At a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a member exhibited a small vial containing fifteen grains of osmium, the most deadly poison known. In a short explanatory address, he remarked that twenty pounds of the metal would be sufficient to poison the entire population of the world. One thousandth part of a grain of osmic acid, set free in a volume of air of one hundred cubic yards, would possess such a deadly influence that all persons respiring this air would be poisoned. What makes it the more dangerous is the fact that it has no known antidote.

Clinic.

A CASE OF LEAD POISONING.

BY CLARENCE E. BEEBE, M. D.

ABOUT two months ago I was called in haste to see a man who was suffering with violent cramps in the abdomen, accompanied with excessive nausea and vomiting. On entering the room, I was immediately struck with the peculiar appearance of the patient. The face was very much emaciated, and of a pale yellow hue. The expression was one of intense pain. The thighs were strongly flexed, and the hands of the patient were pressed tightly upon the abdomen. The material vomited was of a watery consistency, bright green in color, and bitter in taste. The pulse was slow and full. Bowels very much constipated; characteristic dark blue lines on both gums; abdominal pain concentrated in the umbilical region. The patient was a carriage painter by trade. The room where he was employed was continually filled with small particles of lead, which at times fell so thickly upon his work as to necessitate constant dusting. There was a history of previous attacks similar to the one under consideration, though not so severe. The diagnosis was saturnine poisoning. The following course of treatment was determined upon: Hot alcoholic fomentations externally, with *nux vomica* and opium in tincture internally were prescribed, and the patient was left. At my second call, the following day, it was found that soon after treatment was commenced, the vomiting had ceased entirely, the paroxysms of pain were moderated, and during the night the bowels were moved freely. From this time the improvement was uniform and rapid. Within three days after the beginning of the attack the patient resumed his work. This was contrary to directions, but from force of necessity. The following week he had a second attack, which lasted about one day, and was unaccompanied with vomiting. The same treatment was employed. Four days after the second attack he came to my office, expressing the desire to subject himself to a course of treatment which would entirely rid him of his disease. He was informed of the necessity of removing the cause before he could hope to be cured. This he could not do, as painting constituted the only means of support for himself and family. Taking this into consideration, I determined upon testing the efficacy of platina first, a remedy which has been highly recommended for the cure of lead poison-

ing. The medicine was accordingly prescribed with directions for the patient to return in a week's time. He called on the day appointed, with the report that the improvement had been uniform and wonderful. There had been no recurrence of the attack. The functions of the body were resuming their normal condition, and there was marked improvement in the general appearance of the man. Since that time he has been to all intents and purposes entirely well, notwithstanding the fact, that he has been more closely confined to his work than usual.

MERCURIAL TOXÆMIA.

BY J. B. GILBERT, M. D.

Mrs. G—m, aged forty-two, married, no children, presented herself for homœopathic treatment with the following history:

She had always enjoyed excellent health until fifteen months ago, at which time she developed sore throat of an obstinate character, resisting for several months large allopathic doses of the bichloride of mercury, and iodide of potassium.

From change of residence she was obliged to employ another physician, who, after hearing her story, informed her that her disease was specific, and prescribed *hydrarg. bichlorid. and potass. iod.* Weeks passed, all symptoms becoming aggravated.

From discouragement she decided to try the virtues of homœopathy.

Examination.—The tonsils were found hypertrophied with deeply ulcerated surfaces; an unnatural redness of fauces; mucous membrane of the pharynx swollen and covered with mucus; gums congested and sensitive; tongue tremulous.

Her general health was much depreciated; she complained of sleeplessness, restlessness, headache, flushes, aversion to food, pain after eating, soreness of the teeth and gums, superabundant secretion of saliva, and a constant unpleasant taste.

A positive denial of knowledge of a primary ulcer having existed, with an absence of the usual accompanying secondary symptoms, led to the selection of *acid. nitric.* as the remedy indicated.

Notwithstanding the frequent thermometrical changes, Mrs. G—m's condition immediately commenced to improve, and to-day, four weeks since the first dose was taken, all prominent symptoms have disappeared.

It seems very like the old story—abuse of mercury, with a no uncommon sequel—an innocent person suspected, and treated for syphilis.

It is interesting further, in so much as it shows

that the toxic symptoms of mercury and syphilis are closely identical; such are the conclusions of many and careful provers from the time of Hahnemann to the present. In a vast majority of cases it is the remedy for syphilis, its curative action being not only a matter of experience, but is strictly in accordance with the guide *similia similibus curantur*.

A CASE OF COMPLETE CONGENITAL ATRESIA OF THE VAGINA AND CERVICAL CANAL.

BY T. DWIGHT BRADFORD, M. D., NEW YORK.

AMONG the interesting cases that came under my treatment while House Physician at Bellevue Hospital, my history book contains one that has never been reported. Although I was at that time, of course, completely under "old school" persuasion, principles and practice, the case ought to be sufficiently instructive to warrant its publication.

Mary W., sixteen years of age, was admitted to the hospital January 15th, 1867. Although emaciated and wearing the appearance of a great sufferer, she had walked from her house—about a mile—without the least apparent exhaustion. The mother, who accompanied her daughter, described the initial symptoms of her illness, as commencing October, 1865 (fourteen months previously), with occasional headaches, which, after two months, were associated with nausea, pain in the abdomen, and feelings of general malaise. These symptoms were described as occurring almost daily, with increasing severity, until they amounted to paroxysms of four and five hours duration. In addition to weight, heat, and uneasiness through the loins and pelvis, "the child suffered as though she was in labor." Physicians, probably through fault of the parents, failing to recognize the full nature of the complaint, prescribed tonics and emmenagogues of every description, while the mother anxiously watched for the slightest "show." During July, 1866, after eight months suffering, the symptoms constantly assuming a more serious character, there was discovered in the hypogastric region, a hard tumor, the size of the fist, smooth upon its surface and painful to touch. With every paroxysm of pain the tumor would enlarge.

The girl was now for the first time examined, and the vagina found to be perfectly and smoothly closed. The evacuation of the bladder and rectum was attended with painful difficulty, but the general health was, to all appearance, but little im-

paired. Month after month the pent-up and accumulating fluid within the cavity of the uterus gradually distended that organ, until the girl's appearance excited the cruel suspicion of her acquaintances. When, finally, the mother, ashamed and indignant at such innuendoes, as well (it is to be hoped) through pity for her child, presented herself at the hospital as above stated.

The patient was placed upon her back, and a thorough physical exploration made. The uterus, gradually enlarged, had risen above the symphysis pubis, and presenting through the thin abdominal walls a round, painful, inelastic tumor, larger than a child's head, gave an appearance closely resembling the advanced stage of pregnancy.

The external genital organs were moderately developed, with the exception of the vagina, which was closed at the site of the hymen, by a thick unyielding membrane, and drawn, apparently by the ascent of the uterus, into a slight cul-de-sac, a few lines in depth. By passing the finger into the rectum, it came in contact, at the farthest extremity, with something hard and inelastic, and continuous with the tumor that rose above the pubis. With supra-pubic pressure it was slightly movable, and to the sense of touch felt not unlike an osteo-fibroid growth. But the rational symptoms, and anatomical relations, all pointed to retention of the menses.

Keeping the finger in the rectum, and a sound in the bladder, the obliterated vagina could be recognized as a cordy substance, extending from the meatus urinarius to the os-tincæ. Having now, by physical examination with the finger, and sound in the rectum and bladder, and with bimanual manipulation ascertained very satisfactorily the anatomical site, extent, and character of the closure, and also the condition of the uterus, the diagnosis was made to be a complete congenital atresia of the vagina, and probably, of the cervical canal. Relief from this condition could only be obtained by an operation. If abandoned to itself, the accumulation of blood constantly increasing, would inevitably produce death, perhaps by marasmus, or suddenly succumbing to peritonitis, the result of rupture of the uterus.

One of two operations seemed most appropriate—either to puncture the uterus through the anterior wall of the rectum, at the fundus of the vagina, or to carefully dissect through the extended vaginal adhesions at the risk of wounding

the bladder, peritoneum and rectum. The former operation would be more easy and less dangerous, and at the same time, less satisfactory; the latter, even with the greatest prudence and dexterity would be hazardous, but the chance of a successful result made it very desirable.

January 24th.—Very little has been done for the girl since her admission, beyond good supporting nourishment. Ten drops of "Magendie's solution of morphine" have been administered every evening—the paroxysms of pain recurring at that time with great severity.

Several of the "visiting staff" have examined the patient, approving of the diagnosis, and favoring the operation of dissecting through the occlusion.

January 25th.—The patient, under the influence of an anæsthetic, was placed in the position for lithotomy. Drs. Taylor, Hamilton, and Stephen Smith of the "visiting," and members of the "house staff," were present.

A transverse incision was made one inch in length, through the center of the cul-de-sac. With the finger of an assistant in the rectum, and a sound in the bladder—to guard, as much as possible, against any lesion of the closely adjacent organs—the advance was slowly continued, feeling with the index finger for the center of the course, and urging its way by dividing with a small tenotomy knife, the resisting tissues. Having effected a passage through the intervening septum of the bladder and rectum, to the depth of nearly five inches, the small hard neck of the uterus was reached. The size of the opening was now stretched by a rectal bougie, to easily admit two fingers. The accumulated fluid was, however, still beyond, to the exit of which the closed cervix made a firm barrier. An ordinary sized trocar and canula, eight inches long, and having a curvature corresponding with that of the axis of the pelvis, was carried along the finger and forced through the presenting neck, two inches into the body of the uterus. No fluid followed the withdrawal of the trocar, and the canula was kept in place till the next day.

January 26th.—Eighteen hours after the operation: Pulse 110; no sleep; no appetite; no fluid had escaped from the uterus. The canula was removed, and by means of a small speculum a dark, tarry fluid could be seen, beginning to flow from the trocar-opening. A tent of the *lamina digitata* was introduced into the wound of the cervix, and allowed to remain twenty-four hours. Sleep was induced by anodynes.

January 27th.—Pulse 120; temperature, 98°. Complained of soreness all over, and of headache. The laminaria removed, and twenty-two ounces of dark grumous blood flowed away, to the patient's great relief; no appetite; beef-tea and milk the chief nourishment. The cavity of the uterus washed out with tepid water, impregnated with Labarraque's solution of soda.

January 28th.—Continues to lie upon the back; feels very much better; no headache; pulse 110; refreshing sleep. After a movement of the bowels, twenty-two ounces more of the menstrual fluid escaped.

January 29th.—The discharge has nearly all ceased, except a slight flow of purulent matter. Pulse 120; temp. 98°; resp. 28. Had a painful, restless night. Aconite and morphine subdued the fever and quieted the pain.

January 31st.—The introduction of a small speculum caused great suffering.

February 1st.—Fever again; pulse 118; resp. 28; hot, moist skin; chilly at times; very thirsty, and feels weak. Pain over the uterus; abdomen tympanitic. Prescribed aconite and morphine. The vagina was syringed with tepid water and "Liq. Plumbi Acl.," an ounce of the latter to a pint of the former. Lint saturated with glycerine and placed in the vagina facilitated the purulent discharge.

February 5th.—Very much improved. Has a hacking cough, and feels very weak; no appetite. Quinine and iron caused nausea, and were discontinued. One-sixth of a grain of nitrate of silver three times a day restored the appetite, and removed the cough.

February 15th.—Patient walking about the ward, steadily convalescing. A small speculum was introduced without much pain; the purulent discharge continues.

February 19th.—Patient singing; was taken to the amphitheatre and exhibited to the students.

March 11th.—Discharged well.

Three months subsequently reported herself in good health. The uterus had returned to the normal size and position. Saw her one year after the operation at her home; she had grown to be a robust young woman. Her menstrual periods occurred regularly.

177 W. FORTY-FIFTH STREET.

EVERY day brings with it new cases of small-pox in Jersey City, Hoboken, and other parts of Hudson County.

SECRETARY'S RECORD,

STAFF OF THE WESTERN HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

At an appointed meeting of the Staff, held at the office of Dr. H. Rickaby, No. 258 West Forty-second Street, Monday evening, February 8th, 1875, the following gentlemen were present: Drs. Rickaby, Gilbert, Beebe, and Danforth. On motion of Dr. Gilbert, Dr. Rickaby was nominated and elected President, and Dr. Danforth, Secretary. The latter was then requested to state the object of the meeting. This object, as announced, was as follows, viz.: To consider—

First—The present condition of the dispensary as regards its usefulness, capabilities, financial condition, etc.

Second—The appointment of a chief of staff, or consulting physician.

Third—Whether or not a classification of diseases is advisable; and if so, what shall it be?

Fourth—The present needs of the institution, in order to properly carry on its work.

In response to the first subject for consideration, Dr. Rickaby, as superintendent, read a report of the work accomplished during each month of the past year, which in the aggregate showed the following result:

Number of cases treated,	-	-	-	12,142
" " prescriptions,	-	-	-	28,255
" " patients visited,	-	-	-	474
" " visits made,	-	-	-	937

Dr. Gilbert then stated that the Treasurer held nearly five hundred dollars balance from city appropriation, and that the Trustees had pledged themselves to the amount of one thousand dollars for the ensuing year.

Dr. Rickaby announced that the building occupied by the dispensary at present was soon to undergo repairs, and therefore it had been found necessary to seek other quarters. This has been accomplished, and a suitable place secured nearly opposite the old location. The removal will take place in a few days, or as soon as the new arrangements are completed.

For the position of Chief of Staff and Consulting Physician the name of Dr. E. Guernsey was proposed. The nomination was received with favor, and the gentleman was at once elected.

The third item for consideration was then announced, and as there appeared to be but one opinion prevalent, Dr. Gilbert moved that a classification of diseases be made, and a division of the staff arranged in accordance therewith. A unanimous

vote in its favor was the result. Upon consultation the following classification was agreed upon, and an amicable assignment of labor arranged, with the *days* and *hours* of each physician's service, as follows:

Diseases of Women and of the Abdomen, Dr. Rickaby, daily, from 10 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.

" " Children, Dr. Danforth, daily, from 11.30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

" " Skin, Dr. Brown, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1.30 to 3 P.M.

" " Eye and Ear, Dr. Wm. Guernsey, Wednesday and Friday, 3 to 4 P.M.

" " Ear, Throat, and Chest, Dr. J. B. Gilbert, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 1.30 to 3 P.M.

" " Surgery, Dr. Beebe, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 3 to 4 P.M.

The present requirements of the Dispensary, such as books, cards, etc., the Superintendent was directed to take in charge, and procure as needed.

It may not be inappropriate to state in connection with this report, that it is hoped and believed by the attending physicians that the new division of labor and increased force will inaugurate a new era in the history of the institution, and give an impetus to its work which it has not hitherto possessed; and that we may be able to build up from the nucleus already established a charity worthy of the cause it represents. The Secretary was directed to present a copy of these proceedings to the Chief of Staff and Board of Trustees. The meeting then adjourned, to meet again the first Monday in April.

L. L. DANFORTH, M. D.,

Secretary.

THE *Medical Record* reports an interesting case of rapid child-bearing. On March 7th, 1874, Mrs. D. gave birth to a male child which she continued to nurse up to January 17th, 1875, at which time she gave birth to a female child. The age of the first child at the birth of the second, being ten months and ten days.

REPEATED CONCEPTION AND GESTATION WITHOUT MENSTRUATION.—Prof. Fardyce Barker, in a paper read before the New York Medical Library Association, reports a case of a lady who, previous to her marriage, menstruated very scantily and irregularly, and who since, now twelve years, has never menstruated but has given birth to ten children, and is still in a fair way to keep up the good work.

The Homœopathic Times.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

Of Medicine, Surgery, and the Collateral Sciences.

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"A regular medical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements, and OUGHT to be the ONLY ACKNOWLEDGED RIGHT of an individual to the exercise and honors of his profession."—Code of Medical Ethics, Amer. Med. Ass., Art. IV., Sec. 1.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC TIMES.

In January, 1873, the first number of the *Medical Union* was issued. Three months later the *New York Journal of Homœopathy* made its appearance. Each journal has completed its second year, and now, after a careful survey of the field, it has been deemed wise to unite the interests of both in one journal, under the name of THE HOMŒOPATHIC TIMES. We trust that this step, which is fully approved by the old editors, will also commend itself to all our friends, as judicious and wise. The record of the journals now superseded by the TIMES is before the public. The editors of the TIMES make no promises for the future. They will strive to issue a live journal fully up to the scientific progress of the age. The TIMES will discuss fearlessly, but in a broad and catholic spirit, the great questions of Medical Science as they may present themselves; it will be published in the interest of no clique and no individuals, but for the benefit of medical science. Will the profession help us to make it a worthy exponent of homœopathic progress and of general scientific truth in the line of medical science? The editors give freely and cheerfully of their time and means, and earnestly invite their brethren everywhere to cast into the common treasury facts from the rich store-house of their experience for the benefit of all. It is

only in this way we can make a journal which will be really useful and practical. Books for review and matter for publication may be sent to the editors at the office of publication.

NEWSPAPERS AND QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

TEN years ago, the editorial assertion of any respectable newspaper, or its criticism upon literary or scientific labors, would have been accepted by the mass of its patrons as conclusive and final. To-day, however, a large proportion of the public has come to recognize that newspaper editors are tasked almost beyond human endurance in hastily gathering and preparing for their readers a synopsis of daily events. They have no leisure for a fair and thorough investigation of any serious topic. It should not be demanded or expected of them, and any attempt on their part to mould public opinion concerning subjects of which they have but an incoherent surface knowledge, is nothing less than a moral crime. But still more atrocious than this is the practice of employing uneducated scribblers to "work up a taking article." When any topic involving public welfare is to be defined or seriously discussed, every journalist, out of respect both to himself and his patrons, should exercise a jealous care that it should be represented only by those who have the most intelligent and unprejudiced knowledge of the subject. An editor, in the very nature of his vocation, assumes this obligation to the public, and the time is at hand when the public will demand its strict fulfillment. These thoughts have been suggested by an instance of an extremely absurd error occurring in one of the most respected of our daily papers, the *Commercial Advertiser* of February 18th. It consisted of an editorial article entitled "A Chance for Homœopathy," concerning the transfer of the Small-pox Hospital of New York into the hands of Homœopathic practitioners. The article, in point of fact, was in almost every particular erroneous, and in effect was injurious.

First. The placing of the small-pox patients under Homœopathic treatment was not contemplated.

It was proposed to remove them further from the city and to convert the building now used for them into a general hospital, to be conducted according to the Homœopathic method of treatment.

Second. The Homœopaths do not and never have professed to prevent or cure small-pox by any preparation made from a horse's hoof.

Third. With very few exceptions the Homœopaths are unreserved advocates of vaccination, considering the process as a happy illustration of their principle.

The Homœopathic practitioners furnish a much smaller percentage of opponents to vaccination than is to be found among the Allopaths. That some unfortunate ones who are unsound in mind and judgment have attached themselves to the Homœopathic interests is true; it is also true of any other method of practice, and indeed of every human interest of importance, and it is unjust in every respect, and to all parties, to accept and give currency to the ideas of any ultra unbalanced mind as fair representative of any cause. In keeping with its accustomed spirit of honesty and fair dealing, the *Commercial Advertiser* will doubtless at once make a correction which will be as conspicuous in its columns as was the error—and we conclude with making this request.

EFFECT.

How many physicians are there who study effect? who look into the arena of professional success, and endeavor to ascertain how much can be accomplished by proper position, by light and shade, and outside appearance? Who desire to gain *éclat* by those manœuvres and machinations that bring them before the people as great men and mighty physicians?

It has often occurred to us as we have looked over the professional world, that it is a hard matter to estimate the qualifications of a doctor by the extent of his practice, or even by his position in society. It is a noted fact that the men with the largest amount of knowledge—the students of medical science—are not those who obtain what may be termed "large business."

Neither is it always true that an extended reputation is a mark of wide acquirements. We have very often noted that mere reputation is made by a *simple* case rather than by one which has taxed both energy and skill, time and patience, brain and discrimination of the doctor. The fact is, that the reputation of a physician among the public (and it is from the public that the patronage comes) is a very ephemeral affair indeed, simply because the public is not a competent judge in the matter, and because the public is always ready to judge of "the effect," and cannot enter upon the real merits of the case.

A First-course student may ride in a chariot to a palatial residence, and prescribe pulsatilla for measles, may make three visits a day for three weeks, and carry three children through the eruptive fever, and may thus make a reputation with the public, because the public generally do not know that with nursing, diet, and ventilation,—and perhaps flax-seed tea, or perhaps aconite—the disease will run its course favorably.

There are some men who have become so accustomed to studying these effects—how this will seem, or how that will appear,—that the habit has become second nature to them. They, like some society people, live for nothing else.

Some physicians really appear to study how they shall go up-stairs; how it will seem to the people if the right foot, or the left gets into the sick chamber first; whether the index or middle finger shall seek the wrist, or whether it is better to cough twice, or once, before taking a seat by the patient.

Some men consider how this medicine may look in a tumbler, or how that will appear in a spoon; how a smile would become them in this case, and how a frown would be proper in that. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at, that after a few years, these "men for effects," are so conversant with this constant exhibition of "taste and discrimination," that they are adepts therein, especially when they are at their usual routine work. Yet, sometimes, they are taken off their guard, and make ridiculous blunders, which are so apparent, that

the mask falls off, and the character of the individual is plainly discerned.

It is not to be denied, however, that the reverse of this condition of things is also true, and that a physician may be so careless in his regard to circumstances and appearances, that the "effect" of this laxity is prejudicial to his patient.

The great desiderata for the physician, his "stock in trade," as the merchant would have it, are his *mental acquirements* and his *practical tact*. If these two are sufficient, "the effect" will be good, because the *manner* will be natural, and being natural, will be, as a rule, the same always. Learning and practical tact, are the rounds on which a man may mount steadily to the top of the ladder, making for himself a lasting reputation of the solid sort; but if, instead thereof, outside effect and studied mannerism are employed, although they may answer the purpose for a while, yet they soon wear out, the foot-hold gives way, and the aspirant for the top, finds himself constantly laid low.

OUR INSTITUTIONS.

COLLEGE commencements for the present year are over, and the hundreds of young men who have passed through the fiery ordeal of their examinations, have received their diplomas, and gone out to strengthen with their young life and energy the ranks of our profession, and to win fame and fortune in their victories over disease, and in the new light which they may be enabled to cast, by their scientific researches and investigation, upon the laws of life and health. It is a matter of congratulation that medical education keeps pace with the development of science, and that the great truths, and the splendid philosophy which the researches of enlightened minds, all over the world, have brought to light within the past few years, and which are doing so much to lengthen human life, relieve human suffering, and regenerate the race, are taught and impressed upon the mind with ample illustrations in the lecture-rooms of our medical colleges. To a certain extent, the high standard of medical education in our colleges is the

result of the demands of the age. Self-interest, if nothing else, convinces our college faculties that their institutions can only stand by sending out young men who will give evidence, when brought to the test of actual work, of thorough scholastic training, and who will be enabled to maintain their place with credit in the ranks of the profession. Self-interest, if nothing else, without legislation, will always keep medical education up to as high a point as the scientific world has reached, and the contest will be in our colleges less to rival each other in the number of students they graduate, but more to send out to the world minds thoroughly trained and fit to perform well the duties of life. The success of the student will be reflected in a glorious light upon the name of his *Alma Mater*, to be seen by all.

The examinations just closed have shown an amount of prosperity in our New York Homœopathic College exceedingly gratifying to all friends of homœopathic progress. The class was larger than had ever before gathered in the college, numbering a hundred and forty. Forty-seven presented themselves for graduation, and of these, so severe was the ordeal, only thirty-nine were successful. We believe the examinations were in all cases perfectly fair, the verdict of the censors and faculty being identical. A rigid examination, however, in which every question is answered correctly, is not always a test for a man's immediate fitness for the duties of his profession. The student should not only be familiar with the theories and facts taught in the books and illustrated by the experience of his teachers, but should be brought face to face in the lecture room, the dispensary, and the hospitals, with disease in its varied forms, so that when he meets it in practice he recognizes it as an old acquaintance. Clinical study is of the utmost importance to the medical student. The clinique of Prof. Helmuth, for the past session, through the enterprise of one of the class, has been published, and shows the immense amount of practical instruction which can be imparted by an able teacher when the living text is directly before him. The student learns to recognize from actual observation

the phases of disease and perfects himself in *diagnosis*, that all-important branch of his profession, without which practice is but mere guess work. Clinical instructors should be, in every case, men of large practical experience, ripened and perfected by years of familiarity with disease by the bed-side. The ablest men in allopathic schools, men of the ripest and largest experience are placed in clinical chairs, and the resources of immense hospitals and dispensaries taxed to furnish them with material. It is to be regretted that in our schools the sources from which such a vast amount of material could be obtained, have been so sadly neglected.

The Bond Street Dispensary, established by Dr. Falgraff many years ago, and which was the largest homœopathic dispensary in the world, has been compelled to close its doors from lack of pecuniary support. The Western Homœopathic Dispensary, now the largest homœopathic dispensary in the world, is only kept alive by cutting down the expenses to the lowest point, none of the physicians receiving any salary, and the trustees defraying the necessary expenses. Remember these are the dispensaries of a school whose adherents pay more than half the taxes of the city, and whose only college is suffering from lack of clinical instruction. If we turn from our dispensaries to hospitals we find a promise of a brighter future. Thus far we have had no hospital, except two devoted to specialties, the ophthalmic and surgical, the latter established within the past two years, so that with these exceptions all the hospital experience our students have been able to obtain has been from allopathic institutions. We are glad to say that a charter has just been obtained of most generous and ample powers, consolidating the Hahnemann Hospital, the Surgical Hospital, and the Women's and Children's Hospital Association. The Surgical Hospital has thirty-five thousand dollars, the Hahnemann Hospital twelve lots of ground eligibly located, besides a few thousand dollars in the treasury. The Women's and Children's Hospital Association, a powerful organization, working with great energy, hopes, in connection with the Surgical, to raise a large amount at the grand fair to be held in April.

Here, then, we have a substantial beginning, and can look forward to a no distant day when on the twelve lots of ground shall be erected a hospital complete in all its details, with its separate pavilions for women and children, and surgical diseases, which shall be an ornament to our city, and a source of pride to our school.

It is a matter of congratulation that the public authorities have at last recognized, in a very small degree it is true, our just claims to a position in the public hospitals. By a recent vote of the Commissioners of Charity and Corrections it was ordered that the small-pox hospital on Blackwell's Island be cleaned and fumigated as soon as it could be spared, and placed at our disposal for the reception of patients. The building is large and well located, and, although not all we hoped to obtain, still is an indication of the good will of the authorities, and an earnest for the future.

HOSPITAL FAIR.

THE editors would desire the earnest attention of every patron of homœopathic progress to the following announcement of the fair of the New York Homœopathic Hospital Association :

"NEW YORK, March 1, 1875.

"The rapid growth of the homœopathic system of medical treatment in this city during the past ten years has rendered it absolutely necessary that the hospital facilities for it should be increased.

"There is need now of a great general hospital, in which one entire pavilion shall be devoted to women and children. This need is so imperative and important that we believe the mere statement of it will secure the active sympathy and co-operation of the friends of homœopathy.

"A good beginning has already been made. In 1872 a grand fair was held for the benefit of the 'New York Homœopathic Surgical Hospital,' and the sum of \$35,000 was realized, and placed at interest towards a building fund.

"A surgical hospital is now in successful operation, on leased premises, in West Fifty-fourth street. Its sphere of usefulness ought to be extended, and a general hospital is also necessary in order to allow those who desire it to avail themselves of the skill of our best physicians and surgeons.

"To secure this result, the Ladies' Aid Society

of the Surgical Hospital have united with the Ladies' Homœopathic Hospital Association, and will hold a great fair at the Twenty-second Regiment Armory, in Fourteenth Street, to open Saturday evening, April 10th.

"A series of popular entertainments are now in preparation, under the auspices of the ladies, intended to augment the fund to be raised from the fair.

"We ask the friends of homœopathy throughout the city and country, to lend us a helping hand to make our efforts a complete success, and we particularly appeal to those who feel a special interest in providing for the care and homœopathic treatment of women and children.

"A cordial invitation is extended to all who are willing to work for the Grand Homœopathic Hospital Fair, to join the Association and to co-operate with such committees as can best further their own wishes."

TABLES.

Tables for fancy articles will be numbered from 1 to 24.

Contributions for any of the departments or tables of the fair are urgently solicited, and may be sent to Mr. Charles H. Neilson, Assistant Secretary, 128 Broadway, until April 1st, after which date to be sent to Mr. J. H. Forman, Corresponding Secretary, at the Twenty-second Regiment Armory.

Contributors are particularly requested to send their name and address.

Donations in money should be sent direct to the Treasurer of the Fair Association, Hon. Salem H. Wales, Windsor Hotel, Fifth Avenue.

The homœopathic physicians and surgeons of New York City and its vicinity generally unite in cordially commending this charity to the public.

A daily newspaper will be issued during the fair, conducted by an efficient corps of editors and contributors. Advertisements are solicited, and should be sent as early as possible to the Assistant Secretary.

In the list of officers which we append will be found some of our most prominent citizens:

OFFICERS OF THE FAIR ASSOCIATION.—*President*—Mrs. Gen. W. S. Hancock. *Vice-Presidents*—Mrs. E. B. Phelps and Mrs. Parke Godwin. *Treasurer*—Hon. Salem H. Wales. *Secretary*—Mrs. E. G. Bartlett. *Corresponding Secretary*—Mr. J. H. Forman.

Executive Committee—Hon. Henry G. Stebbins, Chairman; Mr. Chas. Watrous, Secretary of Executive Committee; Mr. C. H. Neilson, Assistant Secretary Ex. Com.; Mrs. E. B. Phelps, Mrs. W. H. Neilson, Mrs. T. F. Mc-

Dowell, Mrs. Wm. Tod Helmuth, Mrs. A. B. Darling, Mrs. E. G. Bartlett, Mrs. J. A. Jameson, Mrs. J. W. Dowling, Mrs. C. P. Crosby, Mrs. E. H. Chapin, Mrs. John H. McGinnis, Jr., Hon. Salem H. Wales, Mr. Algernon S. Sullivan, Mr. Spencer W. Coe, Mr. Lot C. Clark, Mr. Alfred Mackay, Mr. John R. Cecil, Mr. Jenkins Van Schaick, Mr. George R. Blanchard, Mr. John Mildeberger, Gen. W. W. Averill, Mrs. Parke Godwin, Mrs. Egbert Guernsey, Mrs. Chas. Watrous, Mrs. C. S. Groot, Mrs. S. H. Wales, Mrs. M. C. Davis, Mrs. E. P. Fowler, Mrs. O. H. Palmer, Mrs. F. H. Macy, Mrs. E. J. Hegeman, Mrs. John W. Barrow, Mr. Chas. Watrous, Mr. John W. Bigelow, Hon. O. H. Palmer, Mr. F. H. Macy, Gen. W. S. Hancock, Mr. Ogden Hegeman, Mr. J. W. Barrow, Mr. John McGinnis, Jr., Mr. G. P. Lowery, Mr. Wm. Libby, and Mr. Stephen S. Hoe.

Reports of Societies.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE Sixteenth Annual Commencement of the New York Homœopathic Medical College took place on the evening of March 4th, at Association Hall, and was attended by a crowded audience. The proceedings were opened with a prayer, impressively delivered by the Rev. Dr. Dowling, followed by an introductory from the Dean of the College, Prof. J. W. Dowling, M. D.

The Dean, in his remarks, said this was the sixteenth Commencement of the College. The graduates now numbered several hundred, all of whom, with few exceptions, were successful practitioners and an honor to their Alma Mater. He referred to the severity of the examinations, and stated as an evidence of their thoroughness, that several had been rejected who applied for the degree of the College, from want of proficiency, and yet the class had been fully up to, if not above the average of medical college students throughout the country. He believed the only way to elevate the standard of medical education of Homœopathy was by thorough teaching, and by allowing no one to graduate who did not show evidence of more than an ordinary amount of knowledge for a young practitioner. This was the only college where there were two Boards of Examiners, the one independent of the other.

In every instance, the men rejected by the Censors stood too low for graduation in the faculty examination. He referred to the success attending the efforts of the Homœopathic Surgical Hos-

pital, now in active operation in Fifty-fourth Street. The Ophthalmic Hospital and the various Homœopathic Dispensaries, were favorably alluded to.

He also referred to the new ladies' organization for establishing a hospital for the treatment of women and children, and announced that these ladies, with the ladies of the Aid Associations of the Surgical and Hahnemann Hospitals, were arranging for a grand fair to be held in April, at the Twenty-second Regiment Armory, which would, he hoped, surpass that of 1872, which netted \$40,000.

The crowning work of the year was the union which had been effected of the Surgical, Hahnemann, and Women's Hospitals into one organization, which would shortly proceed to build on the twelve lots of ground on Fourth Avenue, granted by the city to the Hahnemann Hospital, and they hoped in a few years to possess as fine a building as any in the city, devoted to hospital purposes.

He also alluded to the action of the Board of Charities and Corrections, in setting apart one of the buildings on Blackwell's Island for a Homœopathic Hospital, and said that ten gentlemen of the graduating class had volunteered their services as resident physicians for the year, without salary. This action of the Board of Charities and Corrections, which, he was sorry to say, had not as yet been indorsed by the authorities interested, was but an act of justice, for at least half of the taxable property of the city was owned by patrons of Homœopathy.

As an evidence of the success of the College, he stated that the class of 1874-5 numbered one hundred and forty, while the class of four years ago had but fifty students. He closed by commending the graduates of 1875 to the public as fully qualified practitioners of medicine.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was then conferred upon each one of the thirty-eight graduates by the Hon. Salem H. Wales, President of the Board of Trustees of the College, who, in his preliminary remarks, said that now, on the completion of the college year, it had become necessary to send out another detachment of medical gentlemen, who, he was bound in honor to think, would at the outset be more anxious for fame than for money, though he conceded that a reasonable share of the latter would in no wise lessen their desire for the former. He said that on no other occasion at which he had performed this official duty on behalf of the trustees of the

college, had he been so entirely satisfied that the degree was honorably won, as now.

He alluded to the progress made in augmenting the world's stock of knowledge during the last half century, as worthy of commemoration; he spoke of the high tributes paid to the military fame of Napoleon the First, compared with the almost forgotten memory of Robert Fulton, whose conquering genius had effected such grand triumphs in the promotion of civilization and the arts and blessings of peace. He spoke of the great Hahnemann, whose work and fame, so closely connected with discoveries in the science of medicine, should go on to scatter blessings through all the ages to come. The science of Homœopathy, of which Hahnemann was the father, was a great improvement upon all other systems of medical practice, and was steadily pushing its way, destined to supplant all other systems.

Not presuming, as a layman, to venture far upon the discussion of the progress of medicine, he deprecated the amount of learning that was still only speculative and experimental. Reviewing the discoveries advancing medicine and surgery, he summarized them as follows:

First.—The introduction into biology of the correlation and conservation of forces.

Second.—The force of motion of the ether, in regard to the production of heat, light, and color.

Third.—The application of reflected light in the various cavities of the body, by which an entirely new pathology is revealed.

Fourth.—The use of the microscope in detecting obscure and dangerous diseases.

Fifth.—The proper understanding and application of electro-therapeutics.

Sixth.—The advance made in chemistry, and chiefly medical chemistry.

Seventh.—The newer and improved surgical instruments and methods of operating.

Eighth.—The attention given to hygiene and sewage.

Ninth.—Vivisection.

He alluded to the activity of discussion on the subject of vivisection, and to the protest of Mr. Bergh, the sturdy champion and friend of the brute, and then gave a defense of the practice, pleading the amount of information thence obtained, that tends to promote the lives and health of the people, and he referred to the history of vivisection in ancient times, when the modern art of preventing suffering from pain was unknown. He recited some of the benefits which had accrued

to science from the art of vivisection, in exploring the complexity of the nervous system, in testing the full action of anæsthetics, and offering an extensive field for further research, the means for which should be as readily tolerated as the slaughter of beasts for human food. He concluded by extending good wishes and hopes for future success, in the name of the trustees, to all the graduates of the college.

Certificates were then distributed to the members of the Junior Class who had passed successfully the examinations in the studies of their course.

Prof. F. S. Bradford, Secretary of the Faculty, in giving these certificates, made the following address:

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—At our last commencement, in presenting the Certificates of proficiency in the elementary branches to the Junior Class (many of whom we are happy to see among our graduates of this year), I took occasion to make a few remarks upon the three years' graded course of study adopted by this college, and its effect in raising the standard of medical education, not only by requiring an additional year of study, but also by the most philosophical method of leading the student gradually from the lower to the higher branches. Allusion was made to the severity of the *written* and *oral* examinations to which the junior students were subjected in each elementary branch, before they were allowed to pass into a higher grade. All who fail to attain the required standard in any study this year, are obliged to pursue that study again next year, and undergo another examination, and so on until they succeed. And here I would like to state in regard to the final examination of the candidates for graduation, that I believe ours is the only college in the country which subjects its students to the *triple* trial of first a *written* and then an *oral* examination by the Faculty, and after that a searching examination before a Board of Censors, composed at present of *five* of our best city practitioners, who are, otherwise than as censors, wholly disconnected from the College Faculty.

"The names of the censors appear with the names of the faculty upon the Diploma of each graduate, thus affording an additional guarantee to the capacity of those whom this college sends forth to take rank in the medical fraternity.

"And yet there are many even at the present day, who entertain the idea that it does not require much study or scientific attainment to make a

Homœopathic physician, and this notion of the laity is of course sedulously encouraged by our not over-charitable allopathic rivals in the profession.

"In order to correct this idea in some degree, as far as the students of this college are concerned, let us for a brief moment call your attention to the branches of study which constitute our junior course, and for a successful examination in which these certificates are given.

"First, there is *chemistry*, which is taught in its theory and general elements, as pure chemistry to the juniors, subsequently taught in the senior course as applied in the practice of medicine, or medical chemistry and toxicology. *Anatomy* is taught in the truly philosophical manner in the lecture-room and at the dissecting table, combining with the bare knowledge of the locality, form, and structure of the parts or organs of the body, a general idea of the manner in which their functions are performed. Next we have *physiology* taught in accordance with the most approved German methods, and including the result of the latest experimental researches. In the chair of *Institutes of Medicine* the students are taught the general principles of healthy and diseased action, the theories of the different schools, and the special facts and arguments upon which the science of homœopathy is founded. And, finally, in the curriculum of study arranged for the junior course, we have the chair of *histology*, which teaches the minute structure, the origin and development of the various tissues, abnormal as well as normal, which are found in the human body, combining therewith instruction in the mechanism and use of the microscope. When the undergraduate student is able to pass satisfactory examinations in all these branches, we think he is prepared to advance to the study of the more practical branches of the senior course—*materia medica*, practice, surgery, general and ophthalmic, obstetrics, psychology, and medical jurisprudence, in all of which senior branches we hope you, young gentlemen of the junior class, will be able to pass satisfactorily next year."

After the distribution of certificates, the prizes in various departments were awarded; commencing with the Faculty Prize, a costly microscope, granted, by vote of the Faculty, to Dr. Arthur Beach, as the "honor man" of his class, who passed the best examination on all studies, though closely pressed in the contest by Anderson, Rowell, Tinker, and others of the class. The presenta-

tion of this chief prize was made by Prof. Paine, on behalf of the Faculty; after which the professor of Materia Medica, Dr. T. F. Allen, presented his prize, a gold medal, to Dr. Arthur T. Hills, for a "proving" of Saponin, the best original drug-proving of the class this year. In presenting this prize, Prof. Allen took occasion to remark on the great value of these provings, alluding to the importance attained by picric acid, proved by Dr. Lewis Couch, of the class of 1874, which had saved at least a dozen lives, and was coming into very general use. The prizes for reports of Dr. Lilienthal's medical clinics, consisted of two cases of medicines, and were awarded to Dr. Wm. G. Hartley, first, and to Dr. C. E. Rowell, second. The prize for the best-prepared anatomical specimen of the year was awarded, by Prof. Carmichael, to Mr. Wm. H. Blackman of the junior class, and consisted of a fine post-mortem case; then the physiological prize, to Mr. Edward H. Sinnell, by Prof. Ebell, of the chair of Physiology.

The valedictory on behalf of the class was then delivered by Dr. Perley H. Mason, of the graduating class, in a brief, but effective address, full of good feeling and earnest thought.

The valedictory on behalf of the Faculty was delivered by Prof. S. Lilienthal, of the chair of Psychology and Clinical Medicine.

His speech was requested by the class and others for publication, and will soon appear in pamphlet form complete, so that only a summary of it can be given here. The Professor, in well-chosen language, spoke of the conclusion of the theoretical labors of those before him, who, from this hour, were to commence a practical life, devoted to the alleviation of human sufferings, as *doctores medicinæ, chirurgiæ, et artis obstetriciæ*, and the colleagues, now, of their late preceptors. He instituted an inquiry among the duties of the profession, spoke of the Great Physician *who went about doing good*, not as a graduate of any school, nor as a man of high scientific attainments, but only *he went about doing good*. Then the speaker reviewed Goethe's picture of the worldly physician, as given in the poem of "Faustus," by Mephisto, in guise of a learned alchemist, to whom a student complains, asking of Medicine:

"Three years is but a little space,
And God! who can the field embrace?"

His satanic majesty makes answer:

"To grasp the gist of medicine is easy,
Learn of the great and little world you fill,

To let it go at last, so please ye,
Just as God will.

In vain that through the realms of science you do drift,
Each one learns only, just what learn he can,
Yet he who grasps the moment's gift,
He is the proper man.

If you but in yourself confide,
At once confide all others in you;
A title first must draw and interest them,
And show that yours all other arts exceed.
My worthy friend, gray are all theories,
And green alone life's golden-fruited tree."

The Professor, further on, alluded to the true old proverb, "*Poeta nascitur non fit*," the poet is born, not made, but in all other sciences, he said, diligence, patient investigation, and endurance were the necessary qualities to reach any enviable name; and none ever became a good physician, but he who at the bedside labors prayerfully to carry out the instructions gained during college years. He then alluded to the benefits of clinical instruction afforded at a hospital, and made an appeal for a city hospital, to be placed in the hands of Homœopaths, to whom even the "Incurables," so-called, would not be unwelcome. *Die milde macht ist gross*—"the mild power is great." Give us hospitals, our school need not fear the result.

He urged the members of the profession never to give up a case, to study faithfully till conscience was satisfied that no better could be done, and then to be calm and confident in themselves, thus winning the confidence of the people, and remembering that

"He who grasps the moment's gift,
He is the proper man."

Every one, he believed, is the arbiter of his own fate, and he who knows when to grasp the right moment, he who has pluck enough to keep his head erect even in trying times, my word for it, he will come out victorious at last, if he only knows how to grasp the moment which becomes the turning point in his life. The poor should be visited, not only for the sake of doing good, but because *it pays*, even in a material point of view.

Young physicians are entitled to the same remuneration, cheerfully rendered, as their elder colleagues, and justice to all demands that those who are able, should pay promptly their just dues to the profession.

The address concluded with a charge to the young doctors to be faithful now, that at the final call to a new "Commencement," the recording angel may be able to hand us the diploma of

"Well done, good and faithful steward."

The music of the evening consisted of several fine pieces by Gilmore's band, and a chorus by the class, in an original college song, followed by a verse of "Auld Lang Syne."

After the Commencement exercises at the Hall, the Trustees, Faculty, and Students repaired to the Hotel Brunswick, and partook of an elegant repast provided by the Faculty; at which great good humor prevailed, excellent speeches were made, and the guests took an "early" departure, well pleased with the whole performance of the day.

The names of the graduates of 1875 are as follows:

Anderson, Henry J., N. J.; Bailey, Walter, Jr., M. D., La.; Baker, Chas. W., N. Y.; Baldwin, Harry D., Pa.; Baldwin, Theodore H., N. J.; Barchet, S. P., China; Black, Arthur, A. B., N. J.; Bradbury, Fred W., R. I.; Cranch, Edward, Ph. B., M. D., N. Y.; Dart, Jas. M., N. J.; Deschere, Martin, N. Y.; Elmendorf, Thos. C., N. Y.; French, Walton W., N. Y.; Gallup, Minor W., N. Y.; Giles, Francis A., N. H.; Goldman, Henry G., N. Y.; Hall, Stanton L., N. Y.; Hartley, William G., N. Y.; Hill, Frank K., N. Y.; Hills, Arthur T., N. Y.; Mason, Perley H., N. J.; Morden, Ralph, Ont.; Muhleman, Samuel A., O.; O'Keefe, Warner F. H., Pa.; Piper, Albert T., Me.; Rowell, Chas. E., N. H.; Routledge, Geo. A., Ont.; Saxton, Charles P., N. Y.; Selleck, William, N. J.; Sherman, Arthur T., N. Y.; Sullivan, Richard B., N. Y.; Terhune, Geo. A., N. Y.; Tinker, Horace H., Ct.; Townsend, Wm. R., N. Y.; Valentine, Richard K., N. Y.; Wanstall, Alfred, D. C.; Winans, Edward J., N. J.; Wyman, Edmund L., Vt.—38.

Obituary.

DR. TELEY CLARKE died in Providence, R. I., January 1st, in the ninety-first year of his age. He was one of the founders of the Rhode Island Homœopathic Medical Society, and, although contributing but little to the literature of our school, was one of its most successful practitioners.

DR. RICHARD BRADFORD, of Auburn, Me., died December 21st, 1874, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He graduated at Bowdoin College in 1825 in the same class with Longfellow, Hawthorne and J. S. C. Abbott. At the time of his death he was the oldest physician in the county in which he lived. His son, Dr. T. D. Bradford, is now in successful practice in New York.

EDWARD DELAFIELD, M.D., LL.D., one of the oldest and most eminent New York physicians, died at his residence in this city, February 13th, in the eightieth year of his age. Dr. Delafield, at the time of his death, was President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and of the Board of Governors of the Roosevelt Hospital. It may be mentioned as a most remarkable circumstance that three brothers Delafield, all eminent in the

history of their country, aged respectively eighty, eighty-three, and eighty-five years, were buried the same day from the same church.

THE DEATH OF DR. BENJAMIN F. BOWERS, which occurred in this city recently, has taken from the ranks of the Homœopathic profession one of its oldest and most faithful adherents. Dr. Bowers was born in Bellerica, Mass., September 30th, 1796, and was, therefore, at the time of his death, seventy-nine years of age. He studied medicine with his brother, Dr. Josiah Bowers, at Huntington, L. I., taking his degree from the medical department of Yale College in 1819. He succeeded to his brother's practice in Huntington, where he remained till 1837, when he removed to New York City, associating himself in practice with the late Dr. B. F. Joslin—both partners following the Allopathic method of treatment. In 1839 his attention was first drawn towards Homœopathy, and, with the spirit which ever characterized his labors, he sought to understand its merits, if such it possessed. Long and persistent labor, conducted in the most conscientious manner, convinced him of the truth of the new system, and from that time forth he endeavored to advance the interests and promote the cause of his adoption though suffering at the hands of his associates ridicule, and even expulsion from the staff of an allopathic institution with which he had been connected. In 1847 Dr. Bowers was appointed physician to the Protestant Half Orphan Asylum, which had been under homœopathic treatment for five years previously. After twenty-seven years of faithful service as physician of the Asylum, he resigned his position on the 1st of July, 1874. Among the last acts of his life was the review of the studies of his youth, preparatory to an examination before the State Board of Censors. This ordeal he voluntarily took upon himself and came through victoriously, thus showing his vigor of intellect and professional pride. Modest and retiring in disposition, a pattern of gentleness and kindness of heart, Dr. Bowers was universally and deservedly beloved.

DR. JAMES H. T. FROST, formerly editor of the *Hahnemannian Monthly*, died at Danville, Tenn., January 21st, 1875, in the fiftieth year of his age. He was formerly Professor of Physiology in the Homœopathic College in Philadelphia, during which time he assisted Dr. H. N. Guernsey in the preparation of his work on *Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*. Dr. Frost was a voluminous and able writer, and his contributions

to the various departments of medical literature have been practical and marked by great research, originality and scholarly finish.

Book Reviews.

THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF PURE MATERIA MEDICA. A Record of the Positive Effects of Drugs upon the Healthy Human Organism. Edited by Timothy F. Allen, A. M., M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the New York Homœopathic Medical College. With Contributions from Dr. Richard Hughes, of England; Drs. C. Hering and Ad. Lippe, of Philadelphia; and Dr. Carroll Dunham, of New York. Vol. I. Boericke & Tafel, New York and Philadelphia.

WE have before us the first volume of "Pure Materia Medica," including the pathogenesis of drugs, alphabetically arranged, from *Abies* to *Atropia*.

Other volumes, we understand, are to follow in rapid succession, until the whole materia medica makes its appearance during the coming three years, and, according to present indications, occupying 6,000 pages, or ten volumes. From the introduction we notice the following sources of compilation:

- 1st. Experiments made upon healthy individuals for the purpose of noting the effects of the drug.
- 2d. Effects observed after poisonous doses.
- 3d. Symptoms observed in the sick after the administration of the drug.

To these are added a *very few* symptoms entirely upon clinical authority, and so indicated.

The work conducted by Dr. Allen, and of which we now have a sample, is the most complete compilation of materia medica yet extant in any language or in any school of medicine.

We are aware that a difference of opinion exists, even in our own school, as to the value and desirability of extending our materia medica by adding to its symptomatology, but all homœopaths admit that provings upon the healthy are necessary to the proper understanding of the curative action of drugs in disease; and as it is only a question of the limit to which such provings should be carried, both parties can be satisfied when there is prepared a hand-book containing the characteristic points, suitable to students and to those who only desire guide-boards by the way, and care nothing for the beautiful scenery surrounding them on all sides.

If we wish to make a study of landscape, it must

be done in detail and with care, otherwise we shall only note striking points at the expense of interesting phenomena and practical minutiae.

To thoroughly understand an individual, it is not sufficient for us to know the common characteristics that go to make up every individual, or even the striking points sometimes found in particular individuals, but we must study as well the details of individual character in all their bearings. So with the medical student, it is more than necessary that a thorough knowledge of Histology, Physiology, etc., should form the foundation for medical education, and of no less importance is the Science of Therapeutics.

Allen's *Materia Medica* is to the therapist what Stricken's *Histology* is to the anatomist; the physician cannot afford to be without a complete knowledge of both.

The excellent review of a portion of this work, by Dr. Dunham, in *North American Journal*, indicates something of the vastness of this undertaking begun by Dr. Allen. It also, by presenting the errors, shows the necessity of more careful final revision. As there is a limit to man's ability to labor, may we not ask why aid was not demanded and these imperfections avoided? It is no small task to make even this final revision, and as it would seem, from the number of mistakes contained in a single pathogenesis, that the whole work may also be found faulty, the profession will deeply regret that the corrections of Dr. Dunham were not embodied in the MS. *before* it reached the printer.

Notwithstanding the blemishes, we heartily commend the work for what it is, as a complete compilation of the provings of drugs so far as known to its editor, and as such, we hope it may find its way into the hands of every student of *Materia Medica*. We need only add, that the typographical appearance is in Messrs. Boericke & Tafel's best style.

THE AGE OF WOMEN WHEN THE CAPACITY FOR CHILD-BEARING CEASES, is the title of an interesting paper by Dr. Fordyce Barker, read before the New York Medical Library and Journal Association. This is an important question in its Medico-Legal relations, and the author attempts to show that physiology and experience have determined the limit of the reproductive function. "While," he says, "it is generally true that when menstruation ceases the ovaries are no longer capable of furnishing mature ova for fecundation, and the uterus no longer has the power of retaining and developing an ovum, yet, on the one hand, thousands of sterile women menstruate regularly and normally, while, on the

other hand, there are great numbers of women who have conceived before they have menstruated, and others who have given birth to a child some years after menstruation has ceased. Ovulation is absolutely an essential function for conception and gestation, but menstruation is not. Hence the numerous cases reported by medical writers, and quoted in works on medical jurisprudence, of a regular sanguineous flow from the genital organs in women over fifty-five years of age no more demonstrates the possibility of conception in such women than does the same apparent menstrual discharge in women who have had both ovaries removed, of which there are several authentic cases." In conclusion the author states most emphatically his belief that the laws of physiology and the experience of mankind show that a woman over fifty-five years of age has passed the period of child-bearing.

HELMUTH'S SURGICAL CLINIC.—A verbatim report of Prof. Wm. Tod Helmuth's Surgical Clinics, as given by him to his class during the last Session at the New York Homœopathic College, was recently received at our publisher's office. It is a handsomely bound volume containing two hundred pages of interesting clinical records with remarks. Professional friends of Dr. H., when reading, will readily recognize characteristics which speak well for the accuracy of the reports. It is the labor of an appreciating student, Philipus J. Stevens. We congratulate him upon his success, for he has certainly given to the profession an unusually interesting work.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS delivered by B. F. Joslin, M. D., before the Homœopathic County Medical Society of New York, 1875.

The President of the Society proposes to give a historical statement of the use and progress of Homœopathy in New York. A little more care in obtaining facts and statistics would have added materially to the value of the address. The almost entire absence of information on important points, and the incorrect statements upon others, render the address almost useless for historical reference.

The obituary list read at the anniversary meeting of the British Royal Society shows that science is favorable to longevity. The total number of deaths within the year, *i. e.*, from November 30, 1873, to November 30, 1874, was fourteen. Of the dead, three were under seventy; five were between seventy and eighty; five between eighty and ninety; and one, Sir G. Rose, was ninety-four.

Medical Items and News.

THE Hahnmann Medical College of Philadelphia are to give a summer course, commencing Monday, March 29th, continuing until June 19th. The profession will be glad to see that they have again resumed; further, that they have so able a staff in charge. Students will do well to avail themselves of the offered advantages.

T. GAILLARD THOMAS's work on the Diseases of Women, is being published in Spanish by D. Appleton & Co.

THE Yorkville Homœopathic Dispensary has removed from 201 East Eighty-third Street, to 162 East Eighty-fourth Street.

PLEASURE AND CHARITY.—Two of the most brilliant entertainments of the season for charitable purposes have recently been given at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. One was a "Lady Washington tea-party" for the benefit of the "Maternity;" the other a grand ball for the "Homœopathic Hospital." Each was a complete success both pecuniarily and socially, realizing a large amount of money and bringing together perhaps the finest array of beauty, wealth, and talent ever seen in the Academy.

THE Boston University Medical School is in a prosperous condition. Its graduating class this year numbered thirty, and the exercises were quite brilliant.

A GERMAN chemist has shown the incompatibility of iron and quinine in wines, on account of their precipitating one another.

As an illustration of the speed at which the electric current travels, a message sent from the observatory of Harvard College direct to San Francisco and back by way of Canada, over thirteen railways, occupied only two-thirds of a second.

In January, 1870, M. Margolidet—as an experiment in natural history—placed a frog in a hole dug in solid stone, and closed and hermetically sealed the opening. On the 17th of last month the stone was opened at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. The frog was living but not lively.

AN AFFECTING SCENE.—The janitor of an Indianapolis medical college was deeply affected on recognizing his mother-in-law on the dissecting table. The fact that he had himself carried the stolen corpse up three flights of stairs, made his grief only the more poignant.

ST. JOHN'S GUILD.—A Lady Washington Reception will be held at the Academy of Music, on Tuesday, April 6, in aid of the building fund of the floating hospital which it is proposed to establish under the care of this society.

DR. HAGAR, of Berlin, believes that aniline colors are, as a rule, poisonous in their action upon the human skin. He recommends, therefore, that woollen garments colored with the aniline dyes should not be worn next the skin, and suggests, as a test, that part of the wool be heated to the boiling point in a test tube, with 90 per cent. alcohol, and if the latter acquire a red, violet, or violet-blue tint, the coloring matter is suspicious.

ABSENCE OF BLADDER.—**M. Fleury** brought before the Surgical Society of Paris a case of a girl who barely menstruated for two years. She had been constant in continence of urine. A catheter only penetrated an inch and a half. Peritritis and death soon followed. On the post-mortem not a trace of a bladder was found; the ureters were normal, and terminated in the cul-de-sac of the urethra. The latter was only one inch and a half long.

Publisher's Department.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC TIMES will be glad to receive from its subscribers reports of interesting clinical cases. Particular attention will be given to this department of the journal; hitherto, it has been too much neglected. Such communications may be sent to the publisher's office, 18 West Twenty-third Street, New York.

IN obtaining advertisements, care has been taken to accept only those that are deserving the attention of the profession. The pharmacies are well known as the best in the city, and as such we recommend them, viz.: Smith's, Wenck's, Rush-ton's, Caswell & Hazard's, Hurlburt's and Spangenberg's. The preparations all are worthy of notice, viz.: Pond's Extract, Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient, La Plata Extract of Beef, Delacre's Homœopathic Chocolate, and Delluc's Biscotine. The latter, an article of diet particularly suitable in cases of gastric weakness, is fast finding its way into the sick-room. Very few cooks can prepare, properly, food for invalids, and it is convenient to have such at our pharmacies to prescribe.

Dr. Hall's vaccine is always to be had fresh and reliable at Wenck's Pharmacy, 1200 Broadway, or 381 Sixth Avenue.

MRS. MAYCRINCK has the names of many prominent physicians on her card.

AMONG a large number of preparations received during the last week at our office, we can recommend the attention of the profession to the following: From Wyeth & Co., Philadelphia, Flixir Guarana, Papona (a food for infants and invalids), Saccharated Pepsin, Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. From Fougere & Co., Paris: Delluc's Biscotine, Delacre's Homœopathic Chocolate, and Beef and Chocolate. From Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, Alkethrepta, a good substitute for tea, coffee, and alcoholic drinks.

SEVERAL communications have been received by us, questioning the propriety of the insertion of Pond's Extract advertisement in the *Medical Union*, on the ground that it is a remedy presented direct to the laity, which, in the opinion of the profession, establishes it a quack article. The HOMŒOPATHIC TIMES accepts, willingly, this advertisement, and begs to differ upon the point as a departure from professional etiquette. Pond's Extract is no secret preparation, neither is its curative effect a secret. Put up conveniently in bottles of various sizes, it is to be had at every pharmacy, and at rates much less than were it prescribed and obtained under its Latin name, as is the practice of many physicians; absurd, too, is another custom, ordering that the label be removed. Take, for instance, the minor results of falls, blows, etc., such as are seldom sufficiently important to ask the attention of a physician, there is no better application than Pond's Extract, and the public are justly entitled to it without additional expense. Earnest protectors of professional welfare, go further in your good work; there surely is a great field for you—the merits of Pond's Extract, though, are well known—try it.

Advertisements for sale and transfer of Practices, Partnerships, etc., will be inserted in this column at the rate of \$5.00, in advance, for four insertions of not more than ten lines.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Amount of Space.	One Insertion.	Three Months.	Six Months.	Twelve Months.
One Page.....	\$18	\$40	\$65	\$100
Half Page, or One Column.....	10	25	40	65
Quarter of Page, or Half Column.....	6	15	25	45
Quarter of Column.....	..	10	20	30
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